

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant and Inventor | Ho Keung, TSE. |
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| Application Number | 09/112,276 |
| Group Art Unit | 2132 |
| Examiner | Gilberto Barron Jr. |
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By Fax

Dear Examiner Barron,

Re : informal communication-Double Patenting Rejection

*Natal
(CB)
8/25/01*

Regarding the double patenting rejection as readable on the Office Action dated Dec., 05, 2000, P.3, section 9, I would like to ask if I can overcome it by abandoning the mother application 08/587,448 and withdrawing priority claim of the present application therefrom, rather than filing a terminal disclaimer form as suggested in the Office Action, P.4, section 10.

Further, if I do so, will there be a long delay, such as, several months, for the Office to have a decision on the application ? Pls understand that it is more important for me to have the patent be issued ASAP and if it will cause such a long delay, I will file the terminal disclaimer form as suggested.

I would also want to know if such a delay is already inevitable, owing to the filing of NEW CLAIM 21. If it is, then I think I shall have to abandon the mother application 08/587,448 and withdraw the priority claim, if in doing so I can overcome the rejection.

I shall contact you next week for your answers. With regards,

Ho Keung, Tse.

